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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 71

By West

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Raymond Jeffrey Council.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Raymond Jeffrey Council; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Council was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, he was a distinguished scholar and gentleman, earning a Bachelor of Arts from Lambuth College, a Master of Divinity from Vanderbilt Divinity School, and a C.P.E. from Vanderbilt University Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Jeffrey Council served with acumen and compassion as a Tennessee State Government Chaplain for twenty-six years, primarily at the Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute, in which position he earned the respect of his peers, superiors, and patients for his dedication, integrity, and kindness; and

WHEREAS, he was honored as Employee of the Month, in 1982 and 1999, and duly recognized as the 1985 Employee of the Year; and

WHEREAS, from 1990 until his death, Raymond Council served diligently as the Pastoral Services Director; and

WHEREAS, he also served as a liaison between the Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute and the public, particularly to mental health organizations and the religious community; he served tirelessly advancing mental health education in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Jeffrey Council was a credit to professional ministry and the Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute, fulfilling his responsibilities to patients and staff with consideration, love, and hard work; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Council was an accomplished writer, and a contributor to many devotional publications, including *Alive Now*, *Disciplines and Pulpit Digest*; and

WHEREAS, a Methodist minister since 1971, he was an active and devout member of the Belmont United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Jeffrey Council was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Council enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Sue Council and was blessed with a stepson, Sean Kite; and

WHEREAS, he will also be greatly missed by his parents, Ralph and Edythe Pittman; and

WHEREAS, Raymond Council leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Raymond Jeffrey Council, reflecting fondly upon

his impeccable character, his stalwart service as a Tennessee State Government Chaplain, and celebrate the beauty and joy that was his life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and friends of Raymond Jeffrey Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.